

DOCKET NO.: CA-0006
Application No.: 10/030,287
Office Action Dated: August 27, 2004

PATENT
REPLY FILED UNDER EXPEDITED
PROCEDURE PURSUANT TO
37 CFR § 1.116

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application in view of the above amendments and following remarks is requested. After entry of this amendment, claims 15-23, 25-27, 29-38 and 40-41 (a total of twenty-four claims) are pending in the application. Claims 15-17 are amended, and claims 39 and 42 are canceled (claims 1-14, 24 and 28 were previously canceled).

In the final office action dated August 27, 2004, the examiner rejects claims 39 and 42 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph; rejects claims 15-17 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite due to the phrase “the kneading element” lacking antecedent basis; rejects claim 39 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite due to “no corresponding structure being linked to the functions in the means-plus-function limitations;” and rejects claim 39 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Tanaka (US 5,322,368).

Claim Rejections

Applicant has amended claims 15-17 to correct the issues of antecedent basis relating to the phrase “the kneading element,” as referenced by the examiner. Applicant’s representative thanks the examiner for pointing out this issue; applicant has reviewed the pending claims for these and other informalities, as suggested by the examiner in office action paragraph 9.

Applicant has canceled claims 39 and 42 solely to expedite prosecution of this application. Applicant traverses the various rejections of these claims; and respectfully reserves the right to continue prosecution of claims 39 and 42 in a continuing application.

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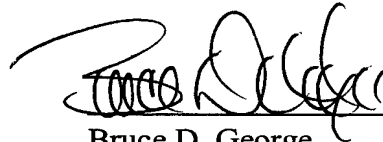
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CONCLUSION

In light of the above amendments and remarks, applicant submits that pending claims 15-23, 25-27, 29-38 and 40-41 (a total of twenty-four claims) are allowable and requests that examiner issue an early notice of allowance. The examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney in the event that a telephone interview will advance prosecution of this application.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: Sept. 28, 2004

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bruce D. George", is written over a horizontal line.

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